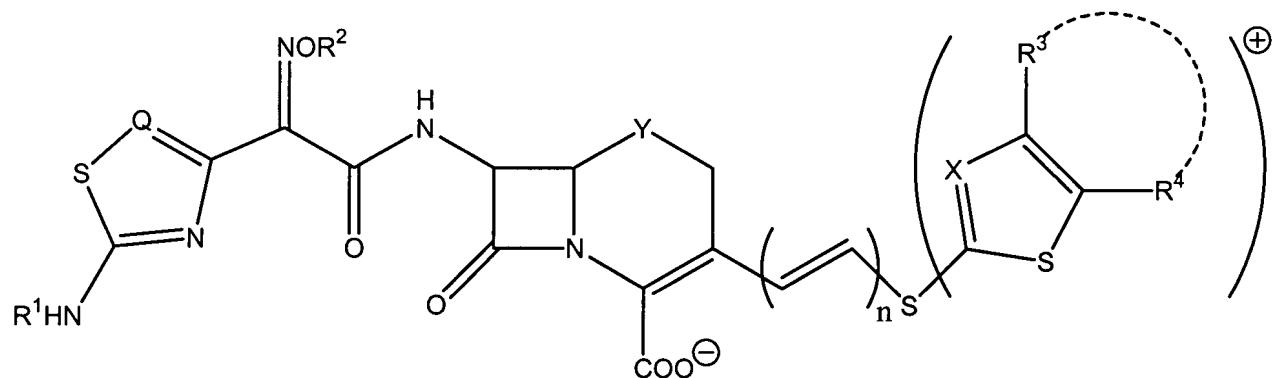


or prevention of infectious diseases caused by these bacteria. [And] Additionally, the compound (I) has a relatively high solubility in water, and can be advantageously used [as] for injection.

In the Claims

1. (AMENDED) A compound of the formula:



wherein R¹ is [a phosphono group or a group convertible to a phosphono group; phosphono, dialkoxy-phosphoryl, O-alkyl-phosphono, diaminophosphoryl, (amino)(hydroxy)phosphoryl, (alkoxy)(morpholino)phosphoryl or dihalophosphoryl]:

R^2 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{3-5} cycloalkyl group; [or a group having a linkage through a carbon atom;]

each of Q and X is a nitrogen atom or CH;

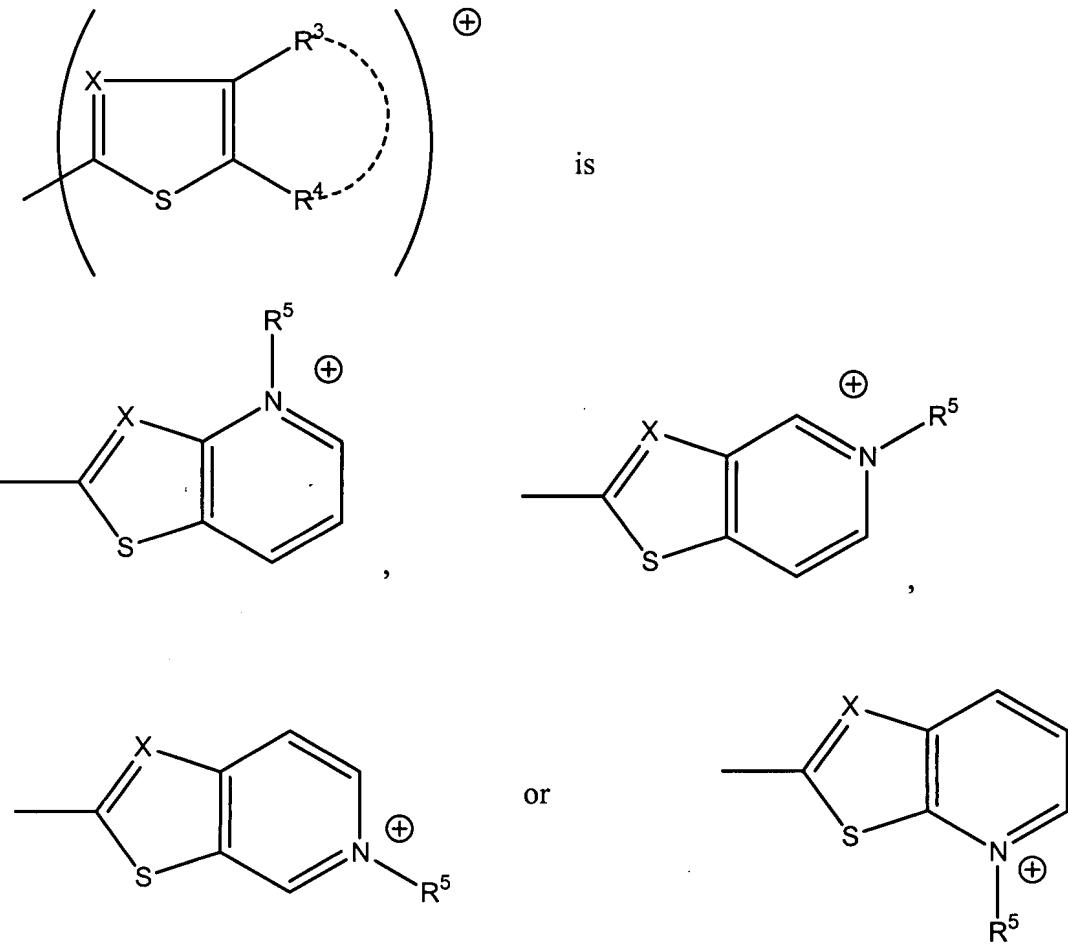
Y is S[, O or CH₂];

n is 0 or 1;

one of R^3 and R^4 is a pyridinium group which may be substituted and the other is a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group which may be substituted, or R^3 and R^4 taken together may form a [quaternary] quaternized nitrogen-containing

heterocyclic ring which may be substituted,

wherein when R³ and R⁴ are taken together, the group of the formula



wherein R⁵ is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

salt or ester thereof.

12. (TWICE AMENDED) [A compound as claimed in claim 1, which is] 7β-[2(Z)-ethoxyimino-2-(5-phosphonoamino-1,2,4-thiadiazole-3-yl)acetamido]-3-[4-(1-methyl-4-pyridinio)-2-thiazolylthio]-3-cephem-4-carboxylate, its ester or its salt.

21. (TWICE AMENDED) A method [of using the compound as claimed in claim 1] for